



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
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July 23, 2022

**Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Cabinet Minister
Ministry of Ayush
Government of India**

Subject: Concerns about breast milk made a tradable commodity: Request for cancellation of AYUSH License (AUS-993 dated 24.11.2021)

Respected Sir,

We are extremely concerned to know that the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has issued a license to sell human breast milk as a 'proprietary medicine', to the company named "Neolacta Life Sciences" operating from Bangalore. Human breast milk thus is made a tradeable commodity.

The company exploits women in the communities to donate their milk, converts into some kind of products and sells to countries especially Australia. BPNI has been following this issue with FSSAI for a few years, they have cancelled the license given by them as it did not fit under any regulations.

We had alerted the Ministry of Ayush, but unfortunately have not received any response so far. The Times of India carried a detailed story 3rd July 2022 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/sunday-times/sale-of-breast-milk-raises-eyebrows/articleshow/92623732.cms> . A news report by the signal on 16th July 2022 also throws light on this matter https://daily.thesignal.co/p/the-curious-case-of-neolacta-lifesciences?utm_source=email

For your kind information, similar stuff was going on in Cambodia. The government there has banned selling of breastmilk by an American Non-Profit company Ambrosia as it was found outsourcing human breastmilk from poor women and selling it in the USA. A letter by the Cambodian government stated "*Although Cambodia is poor and (life is) difficult, it is not at the level that it will sell breast milk from mothers*". In the context of Cambodia Unicef also made a statement that "*trade of breastmilk is exploitative of vulnerable and poor women for commercial interest*".

Most countries in the world do not allow commercialization of human breastmilk. BPNI believes and so many experts have commented on this issue, trading of human breastmilk bank is unethical and can open door for many malpractices. MOH Government of India's guidelines suggest that there should no commercialisation of donated human milk. Hon'ble Prime Minister has been promoting Ayush for ayurveda, naturopathy and yoga, not for commercialisation of human breastmilk.

Therefore, to secure the sanctity of mothers milk in India. We urge you to cancel the license of Neolacta Life Sciences Pvt Ltd with immediate effect.

Thank you!

You're sincerely,

**Nupur Bidla
National Coordinator BPNI**

**Cc: Shri Amit Khare, Advisor to PM, Government of India
Shri Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India**

As a policy, BPNI does not accept funds of any kind from the companies manufacturing baby foods, feeding bottles etc. and from organization/industry having conflict of interest.